THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • THURSDAY • DECEMBER 16, 2021 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 24 • LATE CITY EDITION

General Manoj Mukund Naravane

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

GEN M M NARAVANE NOW HEADS CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

The post had fallen vacant after the sudden demise of CDS General Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash on December 8

SELECTION OF CDS A WORK IN PROGRESS

Chiefs of Staff Committee (CoSC) comprises the heads of Army, Navy and Air Force. The CDS is the permanent chairman of CoSC and holds the dual role of Secretary, Dept of Military Affairs. With the govt yet to name the new CDS, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Air Marshal Balabhadra Radha Krishna will report to Army chief Naravane, seniormost among service chiefs

LT GEN ANIL PURI TAKES CARE OF DMA

- The functions of Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) is currently being looked at by Additional Secretary Lt Gen Anil Puri. Lt Gen Puri is the second senior-most officer in the DMA
- CDS deals with the administrative issues of tri-services while the chiefs head the operations of their respective services | P9

Dec 2019

WHEN THE POST OF THE CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF (CDS) WAS CREATED

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Canara Bank
HOME LOAN
ROI REDUCED
Irrespective of Loan Amount
6.65% p.a.
LIMITED PERIOD OFFER
Scan to apply online & get instant approval • No processing & documentation charges
Call Canara @ 1800 425 0018

Police book comedian for Hampi joke

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @Hampi

STAND-UP comedian from Bengaluru P Shravan has landed in a soup after he made loose comments on the heritage musical pillars of Hampi. Local organisations and tourist guides have filed a complaint against the comedian and the show organisers at the Hampi police station. A notice has been served to Shravan and event organisers who will be summoned to Hampi soon.

At a recent show, Shravan was seen making lewd comments about musical pillars of Hampi. The Vijaya Vittala Temple complex houses a unique architecture where pillars inside the temple produce music when tapped. As the pillars are getting old, the authorities have barred people from touching it.

CONTINUED ON: P7

EXPRESS READ

Cabinet clears scheme for digital payments

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 1,300-crore incentive scheme to promote digital transactions using UPI and Rupay debit cards. P13

Vajra bus fares slashed by 34 pc

BENGALURU: The BMTC on Wednesday slashed fares of Vajra bus services by 34 pc and also reduced the day pass rates to Rs 100. Vajra services will be increased to 21. P2

Won't relent, says Rahul

"In the end, this minister will have to resign. We will not leave him until he goes to jail. We will not leave him even if it takes us five years, 10 years or 15 years," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said outside Parliament

TV grab of Opposition members in the Well of the Rajya Sabha seeking minister Ajay Mishra's resignation

Call to sack minister paralyses Parl

Ajay Mishra misbehaves with media when asked for reaction on SIT's findings

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

ECHOES of the findings of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Lakhimpur Kheri violence — that the attack was pre-planned — paralysed Parliament on Wednesday with the Opposition demanding the resignation of junior home minister Ajay Mishra, as his son Ashish is the prime accused in the case.

Hours later, the embattled minister misbehaved with a group of journalists in Uttar Pradesh, indulging in name-calling and lunging at one of them. In a video that went viral, he is heard shouting in Hindi at a journalist who sought his reaction on the SIT's revelation: "Don't ask stupid questions. Are you mad? These media persons, thieves. They have no shame..."

Concerned over Mishra's meltdown, the BJP top brass summoned him to Delhi. While the party had maintained a stoic silence on demands for his dismissal of when the violence broke, it sought to fob it off on Wednesday saying the matter is sub judice.

On October 3, four protesting farmers and a local journalist were mowed down by a car allegedly being driven by Ashish when it rammed into them from behind. Three others died in a retaliatory attack.

SP, Cong protest

In Uttar Pradesh, the SP and Congress staged protests outside the state Assembly demanding the removal of Ajay Mishra, as the House began its last session before the state elections

No business could be transacted in Parliament as Opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, pressed for adjournment motions to demand immediate sacking of Mishra and a discussion on the issue. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla rejected all such motions, which led to the Opposition trooping into the Well of the House, raising slogans and holding placards.

Later speaking to reporters, leader of the Rajya Sabha and Union minister Piyush Goyal said the demand for sacking Mishra is baseless since an impartial probe is going on under the watch of the Supreme Court. He also rejected demands for discussing the findings of the SIT, saying that there's a convention that matters that are sub judice are not debated in legislative Houses.

Cong MLCs seek resignation of Byrathi, 14 suspended

ARUNKUMAR HURALIMATH @Belagavi

LEGISLATIVE Council Chairman Basavaraj Hotatti on Wednesday suspended 14 Congress MLCs for a day for staging a protest in the well of the Council and later adjourned the House for the day.

Earlier, Congress Chief Whip M Narayanaswamy moved a motion, demanding the resignation of Urban Development Minister Byrathi Basavaraj. It is alleged that Byrathi Basavaraj and BJP MLC R Shankar created fake documents and purchased over 35 acres of land in Kalkere village of Bengaluru East taluk in 2008. The landowner approached a court, which ordered the filing of criminal cases against the two leaders.

Extending support to Narayanaswamy's motion, Leader of the Opposition SR Patil demanded that the minister quit owning moral responsibility. Horatti, however, ruled out any discussion on the issue in the morning session.

Congress members urged the Chairman to reconsider his ruling. When he denied, they staged a protest with placards in the well of the Council. Horatti suspended 14 members of Congress when they did not listen to his repeated pleas. The suspended members were: SR Patil, Narayanaswamy, CM Ibrahim, BK Hariprasad, Nazeer Ahmed, PR Ramesh, Veena Achaiah, Pratapchandra Shetty, RB Timmapur, Basavaraj Patil Itagi, UB Venkatesh, CM Lingappa, Harish Kumar and Gopalaswamy.

When the members continued to protest in the well for nearly an hour even after their suspension, Horatti adjourned the House for the day.

Byrathi Basavaraj, however, said the land was purchased legally and not grabbed. "There was a dispute among siblings which was cleared before the land was purchased. Now, one of the siblings might have moved court. Narayanaswamy was an MLC when the land was bought. Why didn't he question it at that time? If I am proved guilty, I will quit politics," he added. P6

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT
December 14: 62,17,862 doses
December 15: 53,84,094 doses
TOTAL DOSES: 1,33,17,97,220

NATIONWIDE	DEC 14	DEC 15
Fresh cases	5,784	6,984
Recoveries	7,995	8,168
Deaths	252	247

KARNATAKA	DEC 14	DEC 15
Fresh cases	363	317
Recoveries	327	301
Deaths	7	2

SAD END

Gp Capt Varun Singh succumbs to injuries, funeral tomorrow

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

GROUP Captain **Varun Singh** -- the sole survivor of the Mi17V5 helicopter crash in which Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and 12 others were killed on December 8 near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu -- succumbed to his injuries on Wednesday at Command Hospital in Bengaluru.

Singh had reportedly suffered 90 per cent burn injuries and was on life support. He was an experimental test pilot and belonged to the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Squadron. He was conferred with Shaurya Chakra, the third-highest peacetime gallantry award, on Independence Day this year by the President.

Singh was posted as an instructor to Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington. He had gone to Sulur airbase to receive and escort Gen Rawat to Wellington on that fateful day. Singh is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter aged 11 and eight years.

According to the Indian Air Force (IAF), the mortal remains of Gp Capt Singh would be moved from Command Hospital at 10 am on Thursday and brought to the Air Force Station, Yelahanka, where IAF officers will pay their last respects.

His mortal remains would then be carried by a service aircraft to his home town Bhopal, where it is expected to land at 3pm. The funeral is planned on December 17, said the IAF.

The IAF had tweeted on Wednesday morning: "IAF is deeply saddened to inform the passing away of brave heart Group Captain Varun Singh, who succumbed this morning to injuries sustained in the helicopter accident on 08 Dec 21. IAF offers sincere condolences and stands firmly with the bereaved family."

Recently, according to reports, Command Hospital had requested state-owned Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute located within Victoria Hospital for skin graft.

A team of doctors including intensivists and plastic surgeons was attending on Singh. He was airlifted from Wellington Military Hospital to Bengaluru on December 9 and every effort was made to revive the injured officer.

Singh had graduated from the National Defence Academy in 2003. He was commissioned as a fighter pilot in 2004 and mainly flew Jaguars and Tejas during his flying career.

CONTINUED ON: P9

B'DESH PM

CALLS ON PRESIDENT KOVIND

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday called on President Ram Nath Kovind in Dhaka, on the first day of his maiden three-day visit to the neighbouring country, and the two leaders discussed several issues of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation | P9

RSS GLOBAL OUTREACH FOR IMAGE MAKEOVER

SHAHID FARIDI @New Delhi

THE Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has decided to embark upon a major global outreach to break free from the 'image-trap' of being a Hindu supremacist organisation.

A plan has been chalked out for an intensive interaction and engagement with political leaders, academics, authors, mediapersons and influencers, besides partnering with think tanks and research organisations to organise conferences and symposiums to project RSS as a nationalistic organisation engaged in social work and working for 'Indian cultural renaissance' and 'national reconstruction'.

As per the decision taken by the top leadership, but not yet made public, 50 countries have been identified across Americas, Africa and Asia. A team, comprising former diplomats, academics, politicians and Sangh pracharaks belonging to a large number Indian and overseas affiliates of the RSS, is proposed to be set up to "counter the canards" and carry out this image-building exercise, according to sources in the RSS.

The RSS decision has come close to, and seems influenced by, a virtual conference of unprecedented scale, co-sponsored by departments of over 50 top US universities, including Harvard, Stanford, Princeton, Cornell, New York University, and Northwestern University, and supported by scholars from Columbia University, John Hopkins University, UC Berkeley, UCLA, others on the rise of Hindutva.

Participants at the three-day conference titled 'Dismantling Global Hindutva' held in September described Hindutva as a political ideology that privileges a cult of personality. P10

Bhagwat's pitch on Muslims

At the core of the RSS counter will be showcasing the "progressive moderation" and "universal theme" of its chief Mohan Bhagwat's two recent messages. One, "The DNA of all Indians is the same irrespective of religion," and two, "If anyone says that Muslims should not stay in India then he is not a Hindu."

BAKED TO PERFECTION

A participant takes a selfie in front of cakes shaped like popular characters 'Minions' at the 47th Annual Cake Show at St Joseph's Indian High School Ground in Bengaluru on Wednesday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

No spat, BJP morphed Siddu-Ibrahim clip: Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Belagavi

A video clip showing Assembly Opposition Leader Siddaramaiah and senior legislator CM Ibrahim purportedly involved in a war of words at the Congress Legislature Party meeting went viral on social media sites late on Wednesday evening.

Even as the state BJP unit tweeted the video, showing the two leaders hurling abuses at each other, from its official Twitter handle, Ibrahim told The New Indian Express that the video clip is morphed and accused BJP of tarnishing the image of Congress leaders. Ibrahim said that at the CLP meeting, he was trying to explain to Siddaramaiah what he said to BJP leader KS Eshwarappa in the Legislative Council in the ongoing session in Belagavi. P6

THE BIG RIFT

KOHLI-GANGULY: READ BETWEEN THE LIES

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

"THERE was no prior communication". In a bizarre turn of events, with those five words, India's red-ball captain, Virat Kohli, brought fresh perspective into ongoing shenanigans of the Indian cricket board. Exactly a week after he was sacked as 50-over skipper via a press release, Kohli, during a press meet ahead of India's tour to South Africa, claimed there was no prior communication whatsoever as claimed by BCCI president Sourav Ganguly. "I was told I will not be ODI captain one-and-a-half-hours before the selection committee meeting and I was 'okay, fine'."

The 33-year-old claimed that not a single board official told him of their decision to strip him of the ODI captaincy. "There was no prior communication to me at all since I announced the T20I captaincy decision until the 8th, when I got a call." Kohli contradicted Ganguly who had said he got in touch with the India skipper about T20I and ODI captaincy. Ganguly, claimed he had asked Kohli to reconsider from stepping down as T20I captaincy. "I wasn't told to reconsider it," Kohli said. "(When I approached the BCCI and told them my decision) it was received well..."

Ganguly had told ANI that he "as president personally spoke to Virat Kohli" on ODI captaincy issue. Kohli said he understood the rationale behind the sacking, saying, "A lack of ICC titles. There is no debate on whether the decision was right or wrong." P19

'Available for SA ODI series'

Kohli said he "was and remains available for selection". He called the story about him unavailable 'lies'. "All these people who are writing these things and their sources, to me they're not credible."